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the shortcomings of other institutions.

Better acquaintance and mutual understanding of each other's problems should

furnish a substantial basis for business relations advantageous to both libraries and the book trade.

## AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES SECTION

The annual meeting of the Agricultural Libraries Section was called to order Wednesday morning, June 28, 1916, at 9:30 o'clock, in the Auditorium, Asbury Park, N. J., by the chairman, Mr. M. G. Wyer, librarian of the University of Nebraska. Miss Julia C. Gray, librarian of the Pennsylvania State College School of Agriculture and Experiment Station, was appointed secretary of the meeting.

After brief introductory remarks by the chairman, Mr. John A. Lapp, editor of "Special Libraries," Indianapolis, Ind., gave an address on "Agricultural libraries as special libraries." Mr. Lapp's address caused a discussion which brought out the following suggestions for making the Section useful to the libraries:

A union of all libraries, particularly agricultural libraries, to develop and strengthen the agricultural library in Washington for the use of research workers—a center for the collection of material that European men already have at their disposal. This would require an appropriation of \$100,000 a year for five years.

Increased coöperation between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the agricultural libraries all over the country by maintaining a trained assistant in Washington, to serve as an agricultural library organizer, to improve those libraries for the use of faculty and students.

County agent libraries or clearing houses of information, to be acquired by the collection of free material on agricultural subjects, so that the county agent may be prepared to hand out to the farmer free publications treating of special problems with which he has to deal.

The agricultural bulletins were criticized as being too technical for the farmer, and

for not giving the right kind of information in the right way.

It was agreed that through the Smith-Lever Bill for Agricultural Extension the agricultural libraries are facing great problems and great possibilities.

In regard to methods of extension distribution, Mr. Green, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College Library, stated that it was difficult to secure the interest of extension representatives in the library phase of the work. Mr. Hepburn, of Purdue University Library, stated that boxes of free literature had been fitted to the running boards of automobiles and distributed to farmers in that way.

The first paper on the program, "A union check-list of serials in agricultural libraries," was prepared and read by Mr. Charles R. Green, librarian of Massachusetts Agricultural College. This paper suggested a geographical scheme in connection with the interlending system.

The second paper, "The agricultural index," by Mr. H. W. Wilson, of White Plains, N. Y., explained the purpose and plan of the new index of agricultural periodicals, prepared by H. W. Wilson and Co. In the discussion which followed much frank but friendly criticism occurred. Some believed the price too high. Others did not favor the inclusion of the experiment station bulletins, because of the fact that the stations are provided with the card catalog of those bulletins by the States Relations Service. It was stated that the card catalog was seldom less than a year behind time, and that Mr. Wilson's index would come out more promptly.

The following motions were made and carried:

On motion of Mr. Hepburn it was re-

solved that a committee be appointed to confer with Mr. Wilson in regard to the index. Committee to be appointed by the chair.

On motion of Mr. Deveneau of University of Illinois Library it was resolved that the section take some action to induce the U. S. Department of Agriculture to revise its list of Experiment Station publications, as contained in Bulletin 180, to bring it up to date.

On a second motion made by Mr. Deveneau it was resolved that the section also take some action to induce the U. S. Department of Agriculture to revise its own check-list of publications to date.

The appointment by the chair of a com-

mittee to coöperate with Miss Barnett, librarian of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, in the preparation of a handbook for small agricultural libraries was approved.

On account of the lateness of the hour the paper on "Some opportunities in agricultural library work," prepared by Mrs. Ida A. Kidder, librarian of Oregon Agricultural College, was read by title only.

(See p. 228)

Mr. Charles R. Green, librarian of Massachusetts College of Agriculture, was appointed chairman of the next meeting.

JULIA C. GRAY,

*Secretary.*

## CATALOG SECTION

### FIRST SESSION

The first meeting of the Catalog Section was held Tuesday evening, June 27, the chairman Miss Sula Wagner, of the St. Louis Public Library, presiding. Mr. Jesse Cunningham of St. Joseph, Mo., read the first paper of the evening on "Problems discovered in cataloging the library of the Missouri School of Mines."

(See p. 234)

A paper by J. Christian Bay, of the John Crerar Library, on "Inspiration through cataloging," was read, in his absence, by Carl B. Roden, of the Chicago Public Library.

(See p. 237)

In commenting on Mr. Bay's paper, Miss Agnes Van Valkenburgh, of the New York Public Library School, said:

"I thought at first that the subject announced was 'Cataloging by inspiration' and instantly examples of this method of work came into my mind, like putting Mrs. Alexander's 'Forging the fetters' under the subject Slavery, though this might possibly have been done with malice aforethought, since marriage furnished the fetters forged. It seems to me full time that

the inspirational side of our profession should receive our attention, if this means the things which make it worth while. This generation seems to have become obsessed with a desire to work *with* the public, the idea of working *for* the public has eluded them. Judged in the light of real helpfulness to the world, the catalogers, for instance, who made the useful debaters' handbooks did fully as much service as the person who uses them and who feels quite a thrill of satisfaction in giving to the high school boy more material than he can possibly digest, for his debate.

"There are many things inspiring in our work and I would call attention to a few of them.

"*First:* We are making a permanent record, which will be useful to people yet unborn, and whose influence will go on long after we are done with this earthly scene. I suppose if Mr. Charles A. Cutter had been stung with the bee of working *with* people, he would have had much influence with a few, he was that kind, but nothing at all to be compared with the influence he has had throughout this country in giving us formulated and uniform